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U.S. House unanimously passes Ice Age Floods National Geologic route

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Ice Age Floods Institute
Glacial Lake Missoula Chapter . Post Office Box 3244 . Missoula, Montana 59806

NEWS RELEASE

Sept. 26, 2006

Contact: Larry Lambert, president, 406-370-5987; Patia Stephens, publicity chair, 406-243-4890.

U.S. HOUSE UNANIMOUSLY PASSES ICE AGE FLOODS NATIONAL GEOLOGIC ROUTE

MISSOULA—

Montana Rep. Denny Rehberg joined his colleagues in the U.S. House of Representatives Monday to unanimously approve legislation creating an Ice Age Floods National Geologic Route through four Northwest states.

H.R. 383, passed as "The Ice Age Floods National Geologic Route Designation Act of 2006," states:

"The purpose of this Act is to designate the Ice Age Floods National Geologic Route in the States of Montana, Idaho, Washington and Oregon, enabling the public to view, experience and learn about the Ice Age Floods' features and story through the collaborative efforts of public and private entities."

"We are so excited about this," said Larry Lambert, president of the Glacial Lake Missoula Chapter of the Ice Age Floods Institute, which, working in partnership with the National Park Service, has led citizen efforts to share the floods story. "We in Montana wish to thank Sen. Conrad Burns, Sen. Max Baucus and Rep. Denny Rehberg for their leadership. This could not have been done without them."

The bill previously passed as S. 206 in November 2005 by the U.S. Senate, which also approved it unanimously. Despite a minor name change and different fiscal wording, the overwhelming approval of both legislative bodies signifies general agreement on the path concept. The next step is for the Senate and House to compromise on a single bill.

"We're looking forward to working with the House and Senate to move this bill forward in the coming months," Lambert said. "The important thing is, we have consensus."

The House bill designates "a coordinated interpretive program of certain nationally significant natural and cultural sites associated with Ice Age Floods that are accessible generally by public roads." The NPS is charged

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with creating and managing interpretive centers, signage and literature to guide people along the flood path from western Montana through Idaho, Washington and Oregon to the Pacific Ocean.

An Ice Age Floods Study of Alternatives and Environmental Assessment is online at <http://www.nps.gov/iceagefloods>. The text of S. 206 and H.R. 383 can be found by searching <http://thomas.loc.gov>.

The Ice Age Floods Institute is a regional, nonprofit organization of citizens committed to telling the story of the cataclysmic floods that swept across Montana, Idaho, Washington and Oregon. Its Glacial Lake Missoula Chapter encompasses Montana, particularly those parts of the state once covered by the ice age lake. Visit the IAFI Web site at <http://www.iceagefloodsinstitute.org>.

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Local, specialized western, Bonner County (Idaho) Daily Bee, Spokesman-Review, Tri-City (Washington) Herald, Seattle Times and Post-Intelligencer

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